

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

Claim 2 has been amended to further clarify the subject matter recited therein. Claims 4, 5 and 8 have been amended to remove references to narrower ranges within the broadest recited ranges. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action sets forth a restriction requirement, which requires Applicant to elect species from among the following:

(1) a specific biocompatible polymer with values for A, X, Y, and, if required to define the polymer, Z, which differs from X and Y, and is capable of bestowing the polymer with additional biological or physical and chemical properties, and

(2) a specific indication that is being treated or prevented by the claimed method.

Applicant hereby elects, as the biocompatible polymer, the polymer identified as "RGTAE-82" (see, e.g., Table 2, ¶ [0087], p. 18), which is a carboxymethyldextran sulfate, wherein A is glucose, X is carboxymethyl, Y is - ROSO<sub>3</sub>R', wherein R represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon chain and R' represents a hydrogen or a cation, and Z is acetate. Applicant understands that the election of specific values for a, x and y is not required.

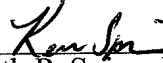
Applicant hereby elects pain as the specific indication that is being treated or prevented by the claimed method.

Claims 1-9 and 12-17 are readable on the elected polymer, and claims 1-12, 14 and 16 are readable on the elected indication.

Applicant understands that, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to the consideration of claims to additional species, which are written in dependent form or otherwise require all of the limitations of an allowable generic claim.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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